

Contributions

CONSECRATION TO GOD

MRS. D. B. ZOOK

This subject fills our heart with awe when considering our weakness, yet in faith we look up the heights from whence is offered help, then venture on the way, tremblingly saying, "where he leadeth I will follow."

The subject implies sacredness, made so by being devoted, or dedicated to the service or worship of God.

1st. Can one be a Christian without being consecrated to God?

To be a Christian we must be a follower of Christ, and since Christ was consecrated to the service and worship of God, we do not believe a person much of a Christian who is not consecrated.

While Christ lived in the world his devotion to our heavenly Father was stronger than any earthly tie, when a child he was subject to his parents, yet forsakes father and mother at the early age of twelve years, to be about our heavenly Father's business.

Would to God we had more boys of that age follow his example.

I once read a book in which the author said, "When Jesus was a boy he played like other children play, and made houses with the little blocks in his father's carpenter shop. Be that as it may we are sure he never went to the ball room for pleasure, nor rode a goat in a lodge room. He had no time for 'tomfoolery.'"

Work and prayer was the theme of his life. Sometimes weary, but never too tired to direct inquiring souls heavenward, tempted and tried yet ever in advance of the enemy.

2nd. A life of service. To be consecrated to God means a life of service for Christ, which means to do what Christ would have us do. To one this means, open your mouth and preach the gospel, to another, open your pocketbook that the cause of Christ be not hindered, and to all, "owe no man anything, but love him."

To a pastor consecration means to feed the flock of God on the unadulterated gospel; being an ensample to the flock.

To the laity, to be ready unto every good work. No where are any to eat the bread of idleness.

"Satan always finds some mischief for idle hands to do."

A person who is a Christian only in name finds duty a burdensome task, and like a machine impelled only by force, or influenced only by eternal power, they would love God more if he would always do just as they wanted him to do instead of doing as he required. This brings us to that part of our subject we call, love for the Master, which makes our obligations delightful, and obedience cherished.

A short time ago Geneva gave a reception to the returned soldiers of Fillmore county. I was at Exeter at the time. A soldier boy near there was on the train. He knew a great crowd was waiting at Geneva to give them a formal welcome which he would have enjoyed very much had not a lamp been burning in a lonely home in the country, a few miles distant. A mother's eyes were watching, her anxious heart was beating for the safe return of her boy. "We will not get to bed tonight, it will be late when they return," she said. They had all gone to the reception but her, she kept the light burning for her son. When hearing where mother was he left the train at once for home. He not only felt that mother would give him the warmest reception, but in his unselfish heart he knew that she had done the most for him.

A consecrated Christian will cherish obedience not only because he expects to walk the golden streets, but because he aims to please the one he loves more than life itself.

In God he finds a friend for all time, to lead him safely thru the difficulties of life on to perfection.

"We shall be like him for we shall see him as he is."

"I shall be satisfied when I awake in his likeness."

THE WISDOM OF WAR

B. C. MOOMAW

The pension office reports show that the total outlay for pensions to date has been two billion four hundred million dollars, a sum estimated as sufficient to pay for all the real estate in the seceding states. Add to this a like amount as the current cost of the civil war, and we have enough to pay twelve hundred dollars for each slave, man, woman and child. As the average market value of this property did not exceed five hundred dollars per head, we see how much might have been saved if the negro question had been adjusted on a financial basis. When we add to the money cost of the war, all the bloodshed, the lives of half a million of our noblest youth, all the anguish in northern and southern homes, all the destruction of property on both sides, and then on top of all that compute the burden yet bearing upon the country, the result exceeds almost the limits of thought itself.

But then, it may be urged, when the war broke out neither would the north buy nor the south sell the slaves. Those who know the persuasive power of money are not quite sure that the south would have refused twice the market value of their slaves, particularly as they were to be set free as a result of the purchase. Many years before the war, a strong emancipation sentiment

sprang up in many parts of the south, but two considerations quenched it, and rendered it ineffective. The first was the fact, that the slaves being at that time the only productive property in the south, their emancipation without compensation amounted to a voluntary impoverishment too great for human nature to bear. The second, was the abolition agitation in the north, which was resented as an outside interference. However this may be, a settlement on a strictly business basis appeared to be impracticable; but war has its business, or financial side also, and the quality of human wisdom appears in the selection of a mode of settlement which cost incalculably more than the common sense method would have cost. When will the nations learn that it is cheaper and more honorable to purchase peace than to compel it by the mediaeval law of the strongest? The secret of the matter is that human nature loves war, and is not any too anxious to avoid it.

THE METEORIC DISPLAY

J. L. GILLIN

Below is a clipping from a certain religious weekly, relating to the meteoric shower which will occur the night of November 13, 14, or 15.

In her flight around the sun the earth now and then passes through the tail of an immense but invisible comet, and the result is a great abundance of shooting stars. About sixty-six years ago the earth happened to come in contact with a condensed portion of this flying matter, and the display was so remarkable that many people became frightened and thought the world was coming to an end. Some who witnessed the phenomenon say that it seemed as tho the whole heaven was in motion, and that all the stars had broken loose and were flying in every direction. In fact, not a star moved. The flying particles of matter coming in contact with the air of the earth became heated and made the display witnessed. On the night of Nov. 15 the earth may again cross the line of this comet, and a number of shooting stars will likely appear. The occurrence takes place nearly every year, only the display is sometimes greater than at others. How many of these displays David witnessed we know not, but we do know that he made the stars a study, and in one of his Psalms wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

The fact here mentioned is truly marvelous, but the explanation here given is hardly satisfactory.

Astronomers tell us that about every thirty-three years the earth runs into a body of meteors about the middle of November.

The first notable display in modern times was in 1833. In 1866 a similar but less magnificent display was seen. And it is predicted that the coming November, on the night of the 13, those who watch will again see large numbers of shooting stars seemingly all coming from the same point in the heavens.

But science does not teach us that it is caused by the earth passing thru the tail of a comet. Altho it has been shown that the meteors and some comets have